



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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August 9, 2011

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RELATIONS**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations' sunset review date to September 1, 2015.

BACKGROUND

The Board established and has continued the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (Commission) pursuant to Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.78, and Government Code Section 50262. The Board approved the most recent extension in April 2002.

The Commission is dedicated to promoting positive human relations in the County by eliminating prejudice and discrimination based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and other factors.

The Commission's duties include:

- Engaging in research and education to reduce prejudice and encourage positive attitudes.
- Developing and administering programs to promote equal opportunity and full acceptance of all persons in the community.

- Coordinating the work of agencies and groups that encourage mutual understanding and respect, and that attempt to discourage discriminatory practices among all population groups in the County.
- Assisting County departments to identify and resolve human relations problems.
- Recommending measures, including legislation, to the Board to improve human relations within the County.

The Commission has 15 members, three appointed by each Supervisor, and is required to meet monthly. Commissioners are paid a \$25 stipend for each meeting they attend, up to a maximum of three meetings per calendar month. For Fiscal Year 2008-09, the Commission spent approximately \$3.1 million for 25 full-time staff, services and supplies, and other expenses.

JUSTIFICATION

The Commission met 52 times between January 2007 and March 2010 (approximately 16 times a year). The Commission met twice a month until July 2008, when the Commission reduced its meeting frequency to once a month. The Commission's average attendance between January 2007 and July 2008 was 7.5 (50%) members, and 10.4 (69%) members between August 2008 and March 2010. Although the Commission's average attendance was low between January 2007 and July 2008, the Commission successfully fulfilled its duties.

The Commission's accomplishments during this review period include the following:

- Collaborated with several agencies/groups on the following projects:
 - Pasadena/Altadena Vision 20/20 Initiative – A coalition of organizations/stakeholders working to stop and prevent gang and community violence.
 - G.R.A.C.E. (Gang Reduction and Community Engagement) Project – A project to reduce racial tension and community violence.
 - Spreading Seeds: Mind, Body, Spirit – A program that conducts workshops for at-risk youth relating to cultural identity development and conflict resolution techniques (e.g., yoga, meditation, and other mind-body disciplines) to break negative habits.
 - Countywide Gang and Violence Reduction Strategy – A comprehensive plan to address gang violence in Los Angeles County.

- Secured approximately \$1 million in grants to support Commission projects to reduce community violence.
- Launched a pilot program in some County schools to teach school administrators, teachers and students how to achieve safe, culturally-appropriate learning environments.
- Launched a campaign to decrease prejudice, hatred and violence among County youth through music.
- Integrated the issues of prejudice and violence against the homeless into its youth projects/training; created a new category in the Commission's hate crime database to include crimes targeting the homeless; and informed city-based Commissions about prejudice and violence against the homeless.

The Commission's objectives for the next review period are to:

- Increase the use of media and internet technology to educate youth about human relations issues.
- Ensure that vulnerable groups within the County are safe by creating effective programs to reduce and prevent hate crimes.
- Reduce prejudice and crimes against the homeless by raising awareness of anti-homeless prejudice.
- Strengthen the Commission's role in the prevention of racial gang violence.
- Improve the timeliness and quality of public services.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Robert Campbell at (213) 253-0101.

WLW:JLS:RGC:TK

Attachments

c: Cynthia D. Banks, Director, Community and Senior Services
Dr. Sandra E. Thomas, President, Commission on Human Relations
Robin S. Toma, Esq., Executive Director, Commission on Human Relations
Janet Logan, Chief, Board Operations
Angie Johnson, Chief, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance establishing the Commission.

CONCUR

Section 1. Relevance. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission promotes positive human relations in the County by eliminating prejudice and discrimination based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and other factors.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT**.

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission met 52 times between January 2007 and March 2010 (approximately 16 times a year). The Commission met twice a month until July 2008, when the Commission reduced its meeting frequency to once a month. The Commission's average attendance between January 2007 and July 2008 was 7.5 (50%) members, and 10.4 (69%) members between August 2008 and March 2010. Although the Commission's average attendance was low between January 2007 and July 2008, the Commission successfully fulfilled its duties. In addition, since the Commission changed its meeting frequency, the Commission's average attendance has increased.

The Commission's meeting frequency and attendance is **SATISFACTORY**.

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

The Commission's accomplishments during this review period included the following:

- Collaborated with several agencies/groups on the following projects:
 - Pasadena/Altadena Vision 20/20 Initiative – A coalition of organizations/ stakeholders working to stop and prevent gang and community violence.

- G.R.A.C.E. (Gang Reduction and Community Engagement) Project – A project to reduce racial tension and community violence.
- Spreading Seeds: Mind, Body, Spirit – A program that conducts workshops for at-risk youth relating to cultural identity development and conflict resolution techniques (e.g., yoga, meditation, and other mind-body disciplines) to break negative habits.
- Countywide Gang and Violence Reduction Strategy – A comprehensive plan to address gang violence in Los Angeles County.
- Secured approximately \$1 million in grants to support Commission projects to reduce community violence.
- Launched a pilot program in some County schools to teach school administrators, teachers and students how to achieve safe, culturally-appropriate learning environments.
- Launched a campaign to decrease prejudice, hatred and violence among County youth through music.
- Integrated the issues of prejudice and violence against the homeless into its youth projects/training; created a new category in the Commission's hate crime database to include crimes targeting the homeless; and informed city-based Commissions about prejudice and violence against the homeless.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission's objectives for the next review period are to:

- Increase the use of media and internet technology to educate youth about human relations issues.
- Ensure that vulnerable groups within the County are safe by creating effective programs to reduce and prevent hate crimes.
- Reduce prejudice and crimes against the homeless by raising awareness of anti-homeless prejudice.
- Strengthen the Commission's role in the prevention of racial gang violence.
- Improve the timeliness and quality of public services.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Commissioners are paid a \$25 stipend for each meeting they attend, up to a maximum of three meetings per calendar month. For Fiscal Year 2008-09, the Commission spent approximately \$3.1 million for 25 full-time staff, services and supplies, and other expenses.

The Commission's expenses appear to be **WARRANTED**.

Section 7. Recommendation.

EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS SEPTEMBER 1, 2015.

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations Attendance Record

| Commissioner | Nominated by: | 3/31/07 | 6/30/07 | 9/30/07 | 12/31/07 | 3/31/08 | 6/30/08 | 9/30/08 | 12/31/08 | 3/31/09 | 6/30/09 | 9/30/09 | 12/31/09 | 3/31/10 | Totals | % Attended |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Number of Meetings per Quarter | | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 52 | |
| Mario P. Ceballos | 1st District | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 25% |
| Kathay Feng | 1st District | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 38% |
| Felipe E. Agredano | 1st District | | | | 0 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | | | 24 | 89% |
| Vacant | 1st District | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Grand Master Tong Suk Chun | 2nd District | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 38% |
| Albert DeBlanc, Jr., Esq. | 2nd District | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 11% |
| Adrian Dove | 2nd District | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 51 | 98% |
| Sergio Paz | 2nd District | | | | | | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 23 | 92% |
| Vacant | 2nd District | | | | | 0 | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0% |
| Donna Bojarsky | 3rd District | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 27% |
| Reverend Zedar E. Broadous | 3rd District | 3 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 27 | 52% |
| William Lambert | 3rd District | | | | | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 24 | 77% |
| Vacant | 3rd District | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0% |
| Susanne Louise Cumming | 4th District | 1 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 46 | 88% |
| Lee Ann King | 4th District | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 42 | 81% |
| Eleanor R. Montaño | 4th District | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 47 | 90% |
| Ray Bartlett | 5th District | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0% |
| Vito Camella | 5th District | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 36 | 69% |
| Michael Gi-Hao Cheung | 5th District | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 82% |
| Judy P. Coffman | 5th District | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 9% |
| Dr. Sandra E. Thomas | 5th District | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 39 | 78% |
| Honorable John Wuoo | 5th District | | | | | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | 8 | 53% |
| Totals | | 24 | 55 | 25 | 21 | 32 | 59 | 41 | 27 | 31 | 38 | 35 | 30 | 29 | 447 | 8.6 |
| Average Attendance per Meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 8.6 | (9) |

Legend:

Vacancy was filled or Commissioner did not serve during this period.

- (1) Commissioner appointed after Commission held three of four meetings in the first quarter of the Commissioner's term and Commissioner resigned after Commission held two of three meetings in the last quarter of the Commissioner's term.
- (2) Commissioner resigned after Commission held three of four meetings in the last quarter of the Commissioner's term.
- (3) Commissioner appointed after Commission held three of six meetings in the first quarter of the Commissioner's term.
- (4) Commissioner appointed after Commission held two of five meetings in the first quarter of the Commissioner's term.
- (5) Commissioner appointed after Commission held one of three meetings in the first quarter of the Commissioner's term.
- (6) Commissioner resigned after Commission held four of five meetings in the last quarter of the Commissioner's term.
- (7) Commissioner appointed after Commission held two of four meetings in the first quarter of the Commissioner's term.
- (8) Commissioner appointed after Commission held one of six meetings in the first quarter of the Commissioner's term.
- (9) The Average Attendance per Meeting is for the entire review period. However, between January 2007 and July 2008, the Commission held meetings twice a month resulting in an average attendance of 7.5 (50 members and between August 2008 and March 2010, the Commission reduced their meeting frequency to monthly and increased their average attendance to 10.4 (69%) members.